



How Segregated are Michigan's Schools? Changes in Enrollment from 1992-93 to 2004-05

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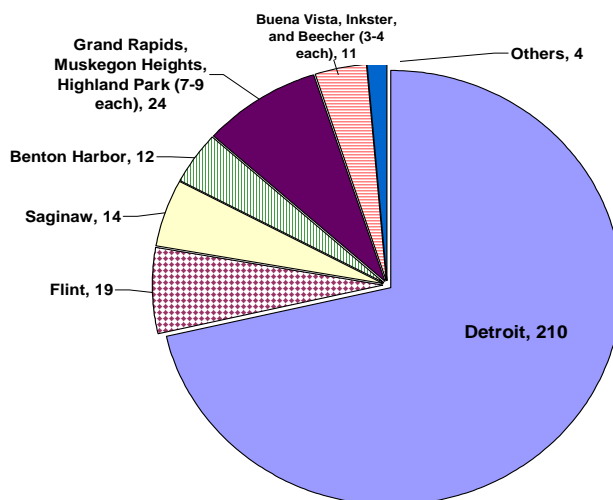
In 2002, the Harvard Civil Rights Project published *Race in American Public Schools: Rapidly Resegregating School Districts*. The report identified Michigan as the state with the most segregated schools in the nation. The Project defined as racially imbalanced or segregated schools where 80 percent or more of the students were African American.

This data brief looks at changes in the distribution of Michigan's African American students between 1992-93 and

2004-05 to determine if African American students are more likely to attend segregated schools today than they were 12 years ago. This brief also looks at whether the location of segregated schools has changed since the introduction of school choice and charter school policies in Michigan's education system.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of segregated schools by district in 1992-93, when approximately 9 percent of all Michigan schools were segregated. In

Figure 1: Number and Location of Segregated Schools in Michigan, 1992-93



1992-93, 71 percent of Michigan's segregated schools were in the Detroit Public Schools (DPS).

In 2004-05 the number of racially segregated schools in Michigan had increased by nearly 50 percent, from 294 to 431 buildings. The percentage of schools in which more than 80 percent of the students are African-American had increased to 11.4 percent. Almost two-thirds of this increase can be attributed to charter schools. Of the 208 charter schools currently operating – all of which were established after 1994 – more than 40 percent (87 schools) are racially segregated. More than three-quarters of the African American students who attend charter schools in Michigan are enrolled in segregated schools.

Figure 2 shows the location of segregated schools in 2004-05. Between 1992-93 and 2004-05 the largest increase in the number of segregated schools in traditional school districts took place in Detroit and Southfield. In the DPS, for example, the number of segregated schools increased by about 7

percent, from 210 to 224. In Southfield, there was only one segregated school in 1992-93, and fourteen in 2004-05. The number of segregated schools also increased by two or more in Flint, Oak Park, Pontiac, Westwood, Kalamazoo and Willow Run.

In 2004-05 there were 87 segregated charter schools in Michigan, none of which had existed in 1992-93. Figure 3 shows the location of Michigan's segregated charter schools.

Most segregated charter schools are located within the boundaries of districts including Detroit, Southfield and Flint, where most traditional public schools are also segregated. Other segregated charter schools are located in districts where there are no other segregated schools, including Lansing, Warren, and Ypsilanti.

Table 1 combines the data presented in Figures 1 and 2, to measure the total change in the number of segregated schools by geographic location. The change column shows the increase from 1992-93 to 2004-

Figure 2: Number and Location of Segregated Schools in Michigan, 2004-05

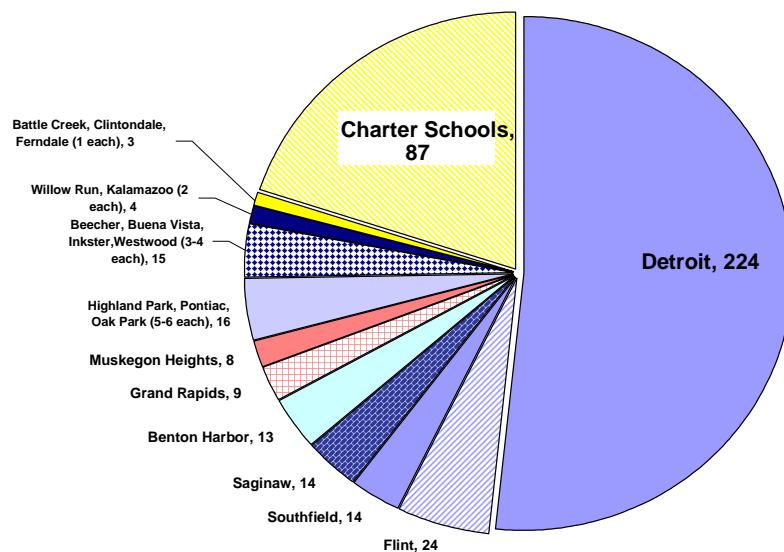
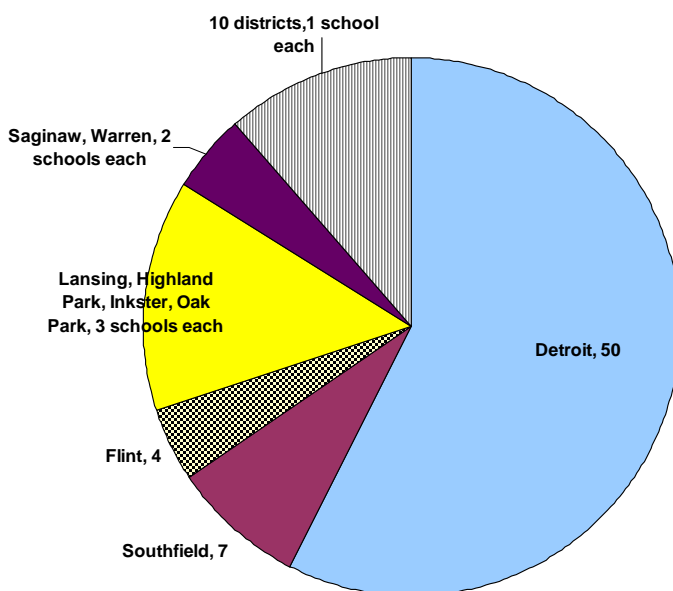


Figure 3: The Location of Segregated Charter Schools, by District, 2004-05*



*Districts in which there is one segregated charter school include Benton Harbor, Dearborn, Ferndale, Grand Rapids, Harper Woods, Muskegon, Pontiac, Roseville, Westland and Ypsilanti.

05 in the number of segregated schools within the boundaries of a district, including both traditional and charter schools. In Detroit, for example, the number of segregated schools in the DPS has increased from 210 to 224. An additional 50 segregated charter schools are located within the boundaries of Detroit, so there has been a total increase of 64 in the number of segregated schools. No Michigan school district saw a decline in the number of segregated schools between 1992-93 and 2004-05.

Table 2 shows the change in the number of students attending segregated schools in Michigan between 1992-93 and 2004-05. As Table 2 illustrates, the number of African American students attending segregated schools rose by over 40,000 between 1992-93 and 2004-05. The percentage of African American students in segregated schools declined slightly over the same period, by about 3 percent, because the total number of

African American students in Michigan increased by nearly 80,000.

As Table 2 also shows, the distribution of students attending segregated schools has shifted markedly since 1992-93. In the early 1990s, 95 percent of the African American students attending segregated schools in Michigan were enrolled in central city public school districts. By 2004-05 the number of African American students attending segregated schools in the central city had fallen by more than 9,000, and the percentage had fallen to 72 percent. Seventeen percent of the African-American students who attend segregated schools in Michigan are now enrolled in charter schools, many of which are located in urban centers. In addition, the number of African American students in segregated schools in middle income suburbs – primarily Southfield – has grown from less than 1,000 to more than 13,000.

| Table 1: Change in the Number of Segregated Schools by District, 1992-93 - 2004-05 | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|-------|--|
| | 1992-93 | 2004-05 | | | Change in total segregated schools within district |
| | | Public | Charter | Total | |
| MI total | 294 | 344 | 87 | 431 | 137 |
| Detroit | 210 | 224 | 50 | 274 | 64 |
| Flint | 19 | 24 | 4 | 28 | 9 |
| Southfield | 1 | 13 | 7 | 21 | 20 |
| Saginaw | 14 | 14 | 2 | 16 | 2 |
| Benton Harbor | 12 | 13 | 1 | 14 | 2 |
| Grand Rapids | 9 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 1 |
| Highland Park | 7 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| Muskegon Heights | 8 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 1 |
| Oak Park | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| Inkster | 4 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 3 |
| Pontiac | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| Beecher | 3 | 4 | | 4 | 1 |
| Buena Vista | 4 | 4 | | 4 | 0 |
| Westwood | | 3 | | 3 | 3 |
| Kalamazoo | | 2 | | 2 | 2 |
| Willow Run | | 2 | | 2 | 2 |
| Ferndale | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Clintondale | | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Battle Creek | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 0 |
| Other loactions of segregated charter schools | | | 10 | 10 | 10 |

Table 2: Change in the Number of African American Students Attending Segregated Schools 1992-93 -- 2004-05, by Location and School Type

| | 1992-93 | 2004-05 | Change | 1992-93 | 2004-05 | Change |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| African American students | 261,301 | 340,061 | 78,760 | 100% | 100% | 0% |
| African American students in segregated schools | 164,782 | 204,907 | 40,125 | 63% | 60% | -3% |
| | | | | | | |
| in central city | 157,299 | 148,149 | (9,150) | 95% | 72% | -23% |
| in low income suburb | 6,886 | 8,604 | 1,718 | 4% | 4% | 0% |
| in middle income suburb | 597 | 13,395 | 12,798 | 0% | 7% | 6% |
| in high income suburb | | | --- | 0% | 0% | |
| in rural | | | --- | 0% | 0% | |
| in charter schools | | 34,759 | 34,759 | 0% | 17% | 17% |

So, are Michigan schools as racially segregated today as they were twelve years ago? How have choice and charter schools affected segregation? The number of segregated schools in Michigan has increased significantly, primarily in the charter school sector. Almost 40,000 more African American students attended segregated schools in 2004-05 than in 1992-93, and most of these students are enrolled in segregated charter schools. The percentage of African American students attending segregated schools has declined slightly since 1992-93, but 60 percent of all African American students in Michigan are still attending segregated schools.

Research Methods and Data

Pupil Headcount data are from the Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information. The total enrollment includes students enrolled in programs in ISD centers, but these students are not included in the change calculations.

Locale codes and census information were utilized to divide districts into groups. Dis-

tricts are sorted by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Detroit is the only district with more than 100,000 students in a large city. Mid-size cities, classified as other central cities, include Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Flint, Lansing, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Saginaw, Pontiac and Holland. Several mid-sized cities as defined by NCES were recategorized as suburbs, including East Lansing, Dearborn and Kearsley. Suburban district classifications are based on the NCES classification of "serving an MSA, but not primarily its central city, and having a population density of at least 20 people per square mile." Low income suburbs include districts with median home values in 2000 between \$32,500 and \$75,000. Middle income suburbs had median home values between \$75,000 and \$170,000. High income suburbs have median home values above \$170,000. Rural districts include those places classified by NCES as outside an MSA, plus those within an MSA with population density of less than 20 people per square mile.

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